

2 AN EXACT
ACCOUNT K

Of two REAL

DREAMS,

Which happen'd to the same
PERSON;

The first of them in the Year 1708,
which was then publish'd, with the Copy
of Verses prefix'd;

The other on *August 21. 1714.* the Author
being then in *India.*

Now both printed together, for the use of his
Family and particular Friends.

L O N D O N, *Anno* M.DCC.XXV.



To my Friend Mr.—

ON HIS

Philosophical Dream.

SO good the sense, so noble is the theme,
My friend, they wou'd become a prophet's dream :

Here's so much reason, and religion taught,
By just degrees, link'd in one chain of thought ;

In thy pure mind such heav'nly notions
shine,

When bound with heavy sleep thy body
lies supine.

Thro the thick veil truth darts her piercing
beams,

And leaden slumbers yield thee golden
dreams ;

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So

So fair their form, and of so good allay,
They well can bear the strictest test of day.

THOSE truths thy active soul by day
explores,
Fancy, to charm thee, in the night restores;
And to reward the labours of the day,
Thy guardian angel marks the glorious way
That leads to bliss, and entertains thy mind
With pleasures only known to souls refin'd.
The pilgrim patriarch thus at *Bethel* lay,
When weary'd by the journey of the day;
While in his view officious angels tread
The steps that to celestial mansions led.

How few, awake, have thoughts so just
and bright,
As thou, asleep, amidst the shades of night!
But since thy dreams so much of truth par-
take,
What clear ideas fill thy mind awake!
Then write again, nor quit the useful text;
Tell us thy waking thoughts of virtue next.

J. S.



A

D R E A M,

In the Year 1708.



ETHOUGHT I was walking in a pleasant green path shaded with trees, the branches of which were fill'd with birds chirping and singing their wild notes in great variety. The charms of the place drew me into a serious contemplation of the beauty and order of the creation ; particularly of this system which we inhabit : I reflected on the various ranks of beings

ings dwelling on this globe ; the subordination and usefulness of them to man, the lord of this little world. I then consider'd the probability of more planetary worlds in this vortex ; and that each might contain a like beautiful variety of inhabitants, whose natures and tempers might be agreeable to their situation. I then view'd the innumerable fix'd stars, each of which I thought a glorious sun for other worlds to compass ; all fill'd with beings who contemplate and praise the great Creator. Thus rapt in thought, my meditations were interrupted by the approach of a venerable old man, who with a grave, yet chearful air, thus accosted me :

“ Sir, your countenance discovers joy
 “ in your mind ; if the occasion of
 “ it is fit to be communicated, I
 “ would gladly share in your pleasure.” I reply'd, “ The subject
 “ of my present thought is of universal
 “ versal

“ versal concern ; ” and repeated to him my former reflections. When I had concluded, my companion said, “ Since you are disposed to a philosophical entertainment, come take a walk with me.”

I READILY follow'd one whose very mein had inspir'd me with reverence, and rais'd my expectation of learning something worthy such a tutor. We had walk'd but a few minutes, when he brought me to the banks of a large and pleasant river, where a great many people were fishing. My old man bid me observe their actions and success. I saw that all the fishers sound'd the depths with their lines ; which in some places were within their fathom, but in other places they found no bottom : however, they fish'd promiscuously, some in the deep and some in the shallow waters ; but not with equal success :

cess : the former catch'd nothing,
 whilst the latter had their toil and
 skill well rewarded. This I remark'd
 to my companion, who said, " So
 " it is with mankind in their search
 " after knowledge : they who will
 " busy themselves to enquire after
 " subjects above their capacity, will
 " spend their days in fruitless labour ;
 " whilst they who duly consider the
 " powers of their own minds, the na-
 " ture of the things about which
 " they are conversant, and the nature
 " of the evidence each subject re-
 " quires, will only pursue things at-
 " tainable and profitable ; and shall
 " always find their labours well re-
 " warded." Then he led me to a
 rugged narrow lane : the entrance
 was difficult, by reason of a dirty
 ditch and steep bank, both which
 were to be pass'd, before we could
 enter a way that made but a very
 indifferent appearance. He pass'd
 with

with ease ; but I having with much labour almost gain'd the top of the bank, had fallen back into the miry ditch, but that he gave me his hand, and pull'd me over. I began to repine at this difficulty, especially when I found the path into which we were got, very rough and uneasy.

“ Come, come, says my guide, the
 “ first step to knowledge and virtue
 “ is resolution and industry ; with-
 “ out which no man ever obtain'd
 “ any thing truly great or good.”

He encourag'd me by enlarging on this principle, during the continuance of the rough lane, which was so hedg'd in on both sides, that we had no prospect of the adjacent country. At length we pass'd a stile, when a new scene presented.

THE path we were in continued in a strait line, less rugged than before, tho still narrow, and a little

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rais'd

rais'd like a caufsey above the neighbouring fields, which were all expos'd to our view. My guide bid me turn my eyes to the right hand, and observe what the crouds of people, I might see there, were doing. I did so, and perceiv'd abundance of both sexes, and of different ages, engag'd in courtship, dalliance, and all the parts of vicious love; and there wanted not numerous visible instances of its sad effects: some were reduc'd to skeletons by their excesses; some appear'd cramp'd with intolerable pains and aches, proceeding from a tainted blood; whilst others were cover'd over with foul leprous scurf, having lost their noses, lips, or eyes, and were most loathsom to behold. Here one might see a duel, there a private assassination, and yonder death convey'd in a dish of meat, or bowl of wine. " See, see my charge, said my old man, see yon-

" der

gh- " der gaudy scene, how pleasant are
 os'd " the flowry meads ! how gay the
 urn " young lovers ! how many charm-
 ob- " ing allurements court their senses
 e, I " on every side to luxury and riot !"
 did " Alas ! cry'd I, you view but half
 oth " the scene ; see there, the sad ca-
 g'd " tastrophe : but tell me, O my kind
 the " instructor, are all the joys of love
 here " to be abandon'd, or those insuffer-
 in- " able consequences borne ?" " No,
 vere " no, says he, misery is not entail'd
 ses ; " on love but vice : turn to the left."

ole- I turn'd and saw another scene ; a
 ling country not adorn'd with all that
 hers sprightly gaiety which luxury invents,
 ous but nobly cultivated and enrich'd
 lips, with all the necessaries and conve-
 n to niencies of frugal life : the pastures
 fuel, fill'd with bleating flocks and lowing
 von- herds ; the arable crown'd with wa-
 heat, ving corn and bending sheaves ; the
 my garden-plots replenish'd with whole-
 von- som roots and herbage, and cool

summer-fruits ; the hale inhabitants were all employ'd in something profitable ; the young people, blest with virtuous love, were all attended by a vigorous progeny of prating boys and girls ; and even the aged, bending beneath the weight of years, were free from all those pains and troubles which constantly attend, and oft-times shorten, a vicious life. I said with eagerness, “ I see, my guide, “ you were in the right ; for vice, “ not love, produc'd those sad disorders I so much lamented. But “ yet methinks I don't see in these, “ the mighty transports, that tumultuous joy and rhapsody of passion, “ which appear'd on t'other side.” “ Observe, reply'd the old man, that “ couple in their retirement, see with “ what a manly tenderness he addresses ; whilst she receives him “ with all the languishments of a “ modest love rais'd up to warm “ desires,

“ desires.—See what calm joy re-
 “ mains in either face, not interrupted
 “ by a guilty conscience, but height-
 “ ned by a just sense of love and
 “ duty join’d together. And now,
 “ my pupil, from this instance of
 “ the highest sensitive enjoyments
 “ learn, that virtue never abridges a
 “ man of true pleasure, either of
 “ mind or body, but raises both even
 “ to perfection.” Hence passing for-
 ward in our narrow way, which now
 grew pleasant to me, charm’d with
 my tutor’s wise reflections, I observ’d
 a company advancing towards us,
 but in the path which led to the fields
 of vicious love, which lay just be-
 neath us : as soon as they came up,
 they began to reproach me for my
 folly, in walking so rough a path,
 when I might with so much ease join
 them in a way so pleasant, and that
 led to so charming a place as the
 amorous fields in view. Unmov’d
 with

with their reflections, I retorted,
 “ Chuse you the easy paths to certain
 “ ruin, I am content with this which
 “ leads to happiness, tho hard and
 “ rugged:” and so disdaining further
 converse, pass’d on with my guide,
 who said on this occasion, “ I am
 “ glad to see you add to resolution
 “ industry, and a contempt of all
 “ unlawful pleasures, constancy and
 “ perseverance ; without which, be
 “ assured, no end worthy the pursuit
 “ of a rational mind can ever be
 “ attain’d.”

THE encouragement I receiv’d
 from my guide, chang’d my senti-
 ments of contempt into pity, for
 those who reproach’d me ; which in
 passing a little forward I had oppor-
 tunity to discover : for we soon met
 another company following them in
 the same path with whom I began ;
 “ Telling them the miserable conse-
 “ quences

“ quences of their joys in prospect ;
 “ the guilty reflections that would
 “ accompany them ; and the vanity
 “ of preferring the licentious enjoy-
 “ ment of unbridled appetites, to
 “ the calm delights of reason and
 “ virtue, accompany’d over and a-
 “ bove with the perfection of those
 “ very pleasures which they so ea-
 “ gerly pursu’d.” But I talk’d to
 the winds, no man regarded me ;
 but with a scornful smile every one
 kept his way. “ You do well, said
 “ my old man, to add charity to
 “ perseverance : the love of your self
 “ ought to be the measure of that
 “ to your neighbour ; when you
 “ have found the way to happiness,
 “ shew it to others : if they will not
 “ hear, their destruction be on them-
 “ selves ; but for your part, expect
 “ a reward for all the good you
 “ practise.”

WHILST

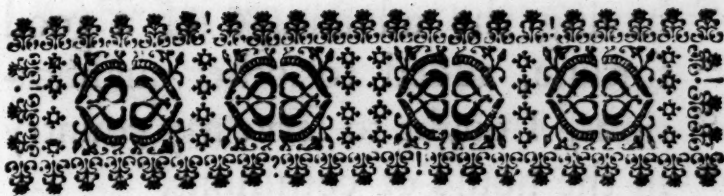
WHILST he continu'd thus to encourage me in the ways of virtue, we arriv'd at a populous city, where being enter'd, he said, " You must
 " abide here, I must leave you, but
 " with this advice; The virtues you
 " have learnt in theory in our passage
 " hither, are now to be reduc'd to
 " practice. You are inquisitive after
 " knowledge; but learn to confine
 " your enquiries to those parts of
 " knowledge which are attainable and
 " useful." See here, said he, taking
 a syphon in his hand, which had
 two pipes transverse, joining the
 legs at each end, " You think, says
 " he, according to your notion of
 " the laws of mechanism, that on
 " bending this syphon, so as to
 " bring the legs one half nearer to-
 " gether, the transverse pipes ought
 " to form two right angles: but try
 " the experiment." I did so, and
 found,

found, that instead of producing a right-lin'd figure as I expected, they fell into curv'd lines, and form'd a circle. " You see, said he, how li-

" able you are to receive false princi-
 " ples, or at least to be mistaken in
 " your deductions ; and after all,
 " you knew before how to make use
 " of this instrument as well as you
 " do now. From this experiment
 " learn never to be confident of
 " those things which you have not
 " thorowly examin'd ; or which, be-
 " ing examin'd, don't admit of clear
 " evidence. Never busy your self
 " in the search of any thing, which
 " when known can be of no ad-
 " vantage to your self or others.
 " Morality, continu'd he, depends
 " on certain and evident principles,
 " and is absolutely necessary to the
 " perfection and happiness of a rea-
 " sonable mind. Make this your
 " study and practice, and take to
 C " your

“ your assistance the divine revela-
“ tion, wherein you will find a per-
“ fect system of duty, a complete
“ example for your imitation, pow-
“ erful motives to persuade, and suf-
“ ficient assistances to enable you to
“ obedience ; and, to conclude, the
“ highest authority attended with
“ the clearest evidence.”





A

D R E A M,

On *August* 21. 1714.

ETHOUGHT I was return'd
to *England* with a plentiful
fortune, and engag'd in com-
pany with several of my friends, at
one of their houses in *Hoxton*; the
conversation turn'd on my future
manner of life: I said, " That I
" was weary of the busy world, and
" purpos'd to enjoy the remainder
" of my life in a private station."
They reply'd, " That I ought not to
C 2 " be

“ be weary of doing good ; and that
 “ having the advantage of a good
 “ fortune, added to other qualifica-
 “ tions, I ought to serve my country
 “ in the house of commons.”

DURING this debate, a sudden
 gloom o’erspread the horizon, and
 every one present apprehended the
 day of judgment approaching : on
 which one of my friends said, “ To
 “ what purpose is it now that you
 “ have acquired an estate, which must
 “ immediately be swallow’d up in
 “ the ruins of nature ? ” I answer’d,
 “ To very good purpose, since in do-
 “ ing it I had discharg’d my duty in
 “ the station wherein the providence
 “ of God had plac’d me ; part of
 “ which was to make a provision for
 “ my family, and for communicating
 “ to the necessities of others : and
 “ that altho both these ends were
 “ now frustrated, yet God, who knew
 “ my

“ my secret purposes, would reward
 “ the sincere intentions of my heart.”

As soon as I had concluded, we heard a sudden noise, like the rolling of thunder under ground ; the earth shook, and in divers places began to open : when turning our eyes towards the city which was full in view, we saw it in an instant wrapp'd in flames ; some ascending out of the ruptures of the earth, and others descending from above. The earthquake increas'd, till at length a hideous crack was heard, as if the whole earth had cleft to the center. Our sight was so strengthened, that we could see amidst the flames and confusion, the persons who were amongst the ruins, and discern great numbers in the utmost horror and affright, and not a few whose countenances discover'd their inward joy and gladness. The ruin approach'd apace towards
 us,

us, and in a short time the flames attack'd the house in which we were: One sudden glare of fire darted from a beam of the room, and wrapt myself and Mr. ——— who methought stood next me, as with a mantle. I started at the surprize, but immediately found, that tho the flame consum'd our clothes, it did not hurt our bodies; but on the contrary, they grew bright and luminous, while our hearts were at once fill'd with an inexpressible flow of joy and gladness. Methought the powers of my understanding were so enlarg'd, that I could at one view take in the whole series of actions throughout my past life, the various dispensations of divine providence towards me, together with the reasons why I had been plac'd in those different circumstances, which I had been us'd to call prosperity and adversity; but now I found that they were only opportunities

tunities for the exercise of different virtues : at the same time I felt the strongest impressions of gratitude to my Redeemer, for having deliver'd me from the sad influences of the horrors round me, and for having render'd the Divine Majesty so propitious as to accept my sincere obedience, and reward the little good which I had done with such inexpressible pleasures as I then enjoy'd. To all this was added the highest degree of benevolence to all good men, and an unconceivable complacency from seeing all about me possess'd of the same happiness with my self ; our joys were so strong, that we could read in each others countenances the inmost sentiments of our minds.

ALL these reflections, which I am oblig'd to relate in a train of words successively, flow'd jointly and at once upon my mind ; think then,
how

how exquisite the joy must be, which results from such an assemblage of such ideas ! I cannot express it ; but my heart o'erflow'd with gladness never felt before. In this condition, methought we were all at once inspir'd to sing an hymn to God and to the Lamb ; for the gloom began to disperse, and a distant glory in the heavens show'd the Judge was coming on ; when straining my voice for the song, I awaked.

F I N I S.



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